

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 18-28 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments and new claims. Claims 26-28 have been added to further describe the invention. Claims 15-17 have been cancelled in view of the Restriction Requirement. Favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments, the new claims, and the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

The Restriction Requirement

The claims were subjected to the following restriction requirement:

Group I (claims 1-14 and 18-25), and

Group II (claims 15-17).

Group I (claims 1-14 and 18-25) was elected with traverse. Since claims 15-17 are no longer under consideration, claims 15-17 have been cancelled.

The New Claims

Since three claims have been cancelled, three claims have been added. It is noted that new claims 26 and 27 mimic claim 1 but also contain additional subject matter, such as specifying the thickness of the copper seed layer and/or specifying the thickness of the resist. Support for the thickness parameters of the new claims exists in the specification, for example, on page 5, line 13 and the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6.

The Anticipation Rejection

Claims 1-14 and 18-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 6,753,250). Hill et al has a U.S. filing date (and thus a 102(e) date) of June 12, 2002. That is, the reference date of Hill et al is June 12, 2002. The present application has a U.S. filing date of June 27, 2001. The U.S. filing date of June 27, 2001 serves as a constructive reduction to practice. Since the invention of the present application has a U.S. filing date EARLIER than the earliest U.S. filing date of Hill et al

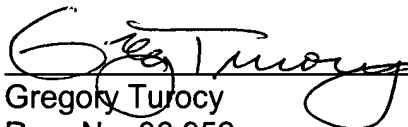
(the filing date of present application precedes the effective reference date of Hill et al), Hill et al is not cited art against the present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

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